friends bulletin

pacific yearly meeting of friends

NOVEMBER — 1951

WHY FAMILY CAMP?

The author of this article, CATHERINE LANGSTON, 334 South Parkwood, Pasadena, California, is a member of Orange Grove Meeting.

Before our family attended the family camp sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the American Friends Service Committee and situated twenty miles north of Redlands, California, I thought I knew a good many reasons why we should go. For two summers our vacation had been taken up with family illness and my husband's separate participation in peace work. There had seemed no program nor physical set-up for a vacation centering around peace concerns for a family with three children and very little funds beyond regular living expenses. As interested as we were in world peace and its well-springs in family life, there was not a group where we could pursue these interests without, in a sense, killing the family to save the world.

Then the F.O.R., which had had family conferences, and the A. F. S. C., goaded in part by the grumbling of some wives (like me), took up the concern. In August of 1950 the first F. O.R.—A. F. S. C. Family Institute was held at Forest Home Conference Grounds.

I believe the sense of community, a feeling of being "brothers in God," was the outstanding gain of the week. I know many would object to this expression, but I think its meaning is clear. The Family Institute was advertised as a "vacation with a purpose," and my heart was all with one of our campers who protested before yielding to his family's wishes, "But I don't want a vacation with a purpose." Fortunately humor undergirded the whole situation and added a great deal to our sense of community.

This sense of community was achieved in many different ways, conscious seeking for it being the least of them. The program should be stated, but many things, such as serving on K. P., emerging together from putting our children to bed, and sharing in their care, things that do not show on the program, cooperated to give us a sense of tranquility and closeness in the blessed community.

The rising bell rang at 7:30; breakfast was at 7:45. All meals were eaten together in the dining hall. Grace was sung, and at breakfast announcements were made above the din, for the people at camp had much to say to one another.

From 8:15 to 9 was time for cabin clean-up, followed by a worship service with families together at the outdoor fire circle. From 9:30 to 11:30 the parents discussed international problems and a personal approach to pacifism, led by A. J. Muste. The children went to their groups led by trained leaders; programs on pacifism at the child's age level were ably presented.

After lunch there was a rest period and then the men worked on building a retaining wall for the conference grounds, while the women and children did crafts. At four we all went swimming, and were ready for supper at 5:30.

For half an hour after supper, from 6:30 to 7, there were games, and then an hour's recreational program with the children. One night there were movies, one night folk records, once a marshmallow roast. Then from 8:30 to 10 we had discussion of family problems, moderated by John Stamm, psychologist. A. J. Muste's newscasts were unforgettable, proving that a sense of humor can thrive with absolute dedication to pacifism. A family-council plan of making family decisions, family worship, props pacifist families can give their children who must resist the run of the mill—these were among the topics discussed. The quality of the discussion was characterized by intrepid self-criticism and a constructive and intimate spirit, nor was there any dearth of eager participation.

In spite of concern with serious problems, there was a most relaxed atmosphere. Mothers especially appreciated the absense of participation in food planning and preparation, and money problems were dissipated by such action as keeping the camp candy store closed and making up a pool for horseback riding. The modest cabins kept housekeeping at a minimum. The girls from the age of ten up were in an adult-supervised dormitory, and the boys on the same level were similarly housed. These not-so-young youngsters seemed to enjoy thoroughly the vacation from their parents. A separate evening program centering largely about the arts was planned for them as well as their morning discussion groups.

While many contributed of their talents to the camp program, I should like especially to speak of A. J. Muste and his message. Here was a man at peace and without fear. Wherever there was hope in the international situation, he

passed it on to us, but I came away fully convinced that the world was in such a radical state of tension that only a radical solution of harmony can solve its problems. If only our country would take the lead in pacifism, power would be given to her to bring peace, we felt. As pacifists, we can claim the advantage that the hunted has over the hunter—we do not have to kill, and that is a great comfort. These ideas grew from our contact with A. J. Muste.

If there are other regions that would like help with planning a family camp, we shall do our best to send it. The camp gave our children a sense of worthwhile community to which they and their parents belong. This feeling will help them to make with poise the changes that have to be made for a better world,—and we want it to help your children, too.

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UNIVERSITY MONTHLY MEETING

University Monthly Meeting, Seattle, was well represented at Yearly Meeting this year. Several of those attending gave most interesting reports at September monthly meeting. The general feeling seemed to be that it was a good meeting and the place very suitable.

We are happy to welcome into membership David Line, and Archer and LaVerne Taylor of Missoula, Montana. The three sons of the Taylors and the two children of Don and Betty Irish are welcomed as associate members.

The Friends Center Board has organized for the coming year with the following officers: chairman, Margaret Terrell; vice-chairman, Wayne Joyce; treasurer, Benjamin Darling; secretary, Elza Jahn.

On August 23 fifteen women of the Meeting met at the home of Fay Knapp and organized the Women's Fellowship Group of University Meeting. Its aims are fellowship, study, and projects for raising an emergency fund for the Meeting. The chairman is Hertha Atkinson; the treasurer, Fay Knapp; the secretary, Margarete Coe.

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VICTORIA MONTHLY MEETING

We have had a very pleasant summer in Victoria. Many Friends and visitors have met with us for meeting for worship: Ruth Wilson and her daughter Susan of Abbotsford, B. C.; Margaret Lake with Trudy and Louise, from Vancouver, B. C.; Rosalind, Laurance and Hugh Aller from Michigan; Cora Sydnor and Mary Sydnor with Mary, Bobby and Billy, from California; Edwin and Edith R. Solenberger from Philadelphia. We are always happy to meet Friends who are traveling in Victoria and were delighted that so many joined with us for meeting for worship.

Two of our members, Martha Vallance and Phyllis Hatch, attended Pacific Yearly Meeting at Forest Grove, Oregon. We feel that to have representatives at Yearly Meeting is a benefit to our Meeting, as it gives us a personal touch with other Meetings of the Pacific area. Friends gathered at the home of Cora Elkington on August 30 to hear an account of the discussions and activities of Yearly Meeting. We realize that Friends everywhere are searching for a deepening of the spiritual values.

Dorothy Lash left Victoria on September 30 and has gone to Wales to be with her mother. Our loving thoughts and prayers are with her at this time.

We had a very interesting visit from Emmett Gulley recently. He was in Victoria for several days, attending meeting for worship on September 30. After luncheon, which was served in the meeting house, he gave us a lively account of his recent activities in his work amongst the Doukhobors.

Relief work was recommenced on September 6. During the summer 29 cartons of clothing were shipped to London. Many local citizens, interested in overseas relief work, sent us money donations. A good supply of used clothing continues to come in. We are grateful, too, for the support and cooperation of various church groups in Victoria.

PHYLLIS M. HATCH

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EARLY IN THE FISCAL YEAR

On behalf of the Finance Committee, WILLIAM C. JAMES, chairman of the committee (670 San Luis Road, Berkeley 7, California) writes: "In order to avoid having to use valuable time of our Yearly Meeting session on financial matters, we hope that the treasurers of the Monthly Meetings will be authorized to send in their contributions to our treasurer, Robert L. Simkin, early in the fiscal year, and where convenient to pay it on a quarterly basis.

"We understand the amount of $3.00 per adult member is suggested as a possible gauge for the amount of money that is needed. We realize that some Meetings are capable of giving more than this while others may feel this is too much of a burden.

"It will greatly facilitate the work of our treasurer and the Finance Committee if the clerks and others responsible in the Monthly Meetings will take notice and act promptly on this suggestion. It is also suggested that those making individual subscriptions and donations sent them promptly to ROBERT L. SIMKIN, 1032 West 36th Street, Los Angeles 7, California."

The budget adopted at the Yearly Meeting in Forest Grove, Oregon, in 1952, is as follows:

Income

From Monthly Meetings, at rate of $3.00 per adult member per year	$1800
Bulletin subscriptions	900
Individual donations	375
	$3075

Expenditures

Working balance	$ 100
Postage for clerks and secretary	50
Visitation Committee	200
World Committee and Fellowship Council	125
World Committee Special Travel Fund	200
Bulletin expense	2400
	$3075

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WORLD CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS

Friends in educational work will be interested in the Conference for Friends Teachers being planned for August 6-9, 1952, immediately after the Friends World Conference. The teachers' conference will be held at Selly Oak, Birmingham, England, under the sponsorship of the Friends Education Council, London, with the cooperation of the Friends Council of Education in the United States, and is planned to strengthen a sense of unity among Friends teachers from all parts of the world. The preliminary program which has been released includes lectures on the application of Quaker faith in school life, parent-teacher cooperation, and freedom and authority, with small informal discussion groups on worship, religious education, and discipline. One session will be devoted to comparison of the educational set-up in the countries represented, with emphasis on clarification of the different educational vocabularies.

No doubt many teachers will be spending time abroad next summer and would be interested in including this conference in their itinerary. Any who would like to receive further information are urged to send their names and addresses to HARRIET L. HOYLE, secretary, Friends Council on Education, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

NOT IN WORDS

Vital Christianity consisteth not in words but in power; and however important it is that we have a right apprehension of the doctrines of the Gospel, this availeth not unless we are regenerated by the power of the Holy Ghost. We therefore tenderly entreat all to wait in humble faith for its quickening influence . . . It may often be slow in its progress, but it is certain in its effects; and amongst the blessed consequences which it produces, we come to have an establishment in Christ, resulting not from any speculative system of belief, but from a heartfelt acquaintance with His power inwardly revealed to the soul.

From the London Yearly Meeting Epistle, 1827.

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A LETTER A DAY

A proposal for action right now comes from FERN S. GAGE (8000 S. W. 54th Street, Portland 1, Oregon). "There are signs of optimism these days," she says. "Peace talks in Korea are progressing. Many periodicals, some senators and even President Truman are proposing plans for universal disarmament. But it seems to me that lovers of peace must guard against any optimism or complacency about universal military training now. Congressmen in these pre-election days will not vote against UMT unless there is sufficient pressure from the people at home.

"All of us know about delegations to congressmen while they are home, getting organizations like P.T.A.'s, granges, and women's clubs to go on record opposing UMT, but this is a special plea for letters—to congressmen of course, but also to periodicials of all and every sort: metropolitan papers, local papers, magazines—yes, I mean the *Christian Century, Colliers* and *The Ladies Home Journal.* If you need material, your nearest A. F. S. C. office, the W. I. L., or F. O. R. can give you all you need. Or ask the Friends Committee on National Legislation, 1000 11th Street, N. W., Washington 1, D. C.

"What if your letter does not get published? All periodicals, local or national, are responsive to public opinion. If the editor gets twenty letters against UMT he'll probably say, 'Well, looks as if we'll have to publish one of these.' What if it isn't yours?

"Why don't we pledge ourselves to write a letter a day till the emergency is over in January? For disarmament and against UMT—it may be our last chance."

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The questions on the peace testimony which were circulated and answered by individuals at the recent sessions of the Yearly Meeting are being used in some local Meetings and groups. In varying forms to suit the age or activities of the groups, they might become excellent devices for stimulating discussion and for testing our own selves. MARGARET T. SIMKIN (1032 West 36th Street, Los Angeles 7, California), who compiled the summary in the last issue of the Bulletin, would be glad to hear from any who use the questions, and will send copies of the complete questionnaire, which is here presented in abbreviated form.

1. Age group: 18-25 ___; 25-40 ___; over 40 ___.
2. Are you a convinced or a birthright Friend?
3. Do you approve of the Friends Peace testimony?
4. Do you practice this testimony?
5. Is war contrary to God's will?
6. Would you be willing to live in an invaded country rather than take up arms?
7. Do you think it is ever right to disobey the law of the land?
8. Do you approve of a universal military draft?
9. Is a civilian defense assignment contrary to your conviction or do you feel such service is a moral obligation to all?
10. Service record, if any: 1A ___; 1AO ___; CPS ___; prison ___; other ___.
11. What classification would you choose now?

Question for Adults:

1. Would you counsel a draft-age person to follow the dictates of his conscience even though a Supreme Court ruling has indicated that this is a "crime"?
2. Do you think it is right to refuse payment of war taxes to the government? If one-third or more of the Society of Friends refused, would you join them?
3. As a member of a Meeting, do you feel that a necessary qualification for admitting new members is a willingness to renounce war as a method of resolving international differences?
4. Do you think there are other moral testimonies more important than peace? If so, what are they?

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MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

From Slocan City, B. C., Canada, write ANN and RUSSELL MCARTHUR: "Russell has accepted the principalship of a small high school here. The town is situated on the south end of Lake Slocan, which lies a little east of the Arrow Lakes, mentioned in a recent Friends Bulletin."

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A new correspondent and clerk has been appointed for the Pullman, Washington, Meeting: MARIE GILSTRAP, 1208 Maiden Lane, Pullman, Washington. The former correspondent, LLOYD C. HULBERT, has moved to 80 Arthur Ave., S. E., Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

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The Yearly Meeting Committee on Visitation reports that WILLIAM OATS, headmaster of Hobart Friends School, Tasmania, Australia, will be in our region in November and December. Present plans are that he will be in Phoenix, Arizona, November 20 to 27; in Pasadena, November 29 to December 7; in San Francisco, December 10 to 15. Further information may be obtained from the chairman of the committee, ROBERT VOGEL, Box 966-M, Pasadena 20, California.

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Birth

BARTON, STEPHEN HOWARD, 11-1-1951, to Harold and Lois Barton, Route 2, Box 326, Eugene, Oregon, members of Willamette Valley Monthly Meeting.

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SIX BLOCKS NORTH

The address of the Bulletin is being changed to
2814 N. E. 27th Avenue
Portland 12, Oregon

This change is regretted from the point of view of the readers of the Bulletin, and we hope they did not get too used to the Broadway address. But it is a source of great joy to the Richards family, and it may even be a boon to the Bulletin. For the editor will have a den of her own, and the paper, complete with correspondence, files, and page proofs, can emerge from its present home in three paper cartons under the bed. We are sorry for the inconvenience of the two recent moves of the Bulletin, be they 1000 miles or six blocks, but we have been deeply stirred and encouraged by the patience and loyalty of the members and friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

E. C. R.

THE FRIENDS BULLETIN

Bulletin Committee: Margaret Jump, chairman, Edwin Sanders, Robert Dann, Russell Thornburg, Francis Dart, Lola Williams. Editor: Esther C. Richards.

All subscriptions and correspondence may be addressed to Friends Bulletin, 2814 N. E. 27th Avenue, Portland 12, Oregon.

Subscription: *"at least a dollar"*

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING and
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

Clerk: Phillip Wells, 516 W. Longden Street, Arcadia, California; Alternate Clerk: Benjamin Darling, 11724 Exeter, N. E. Seattle 55, Washington; Recording Clerk: Ruth Schmoe, 13434 40th Avenue N. E., Seattle, Washington; Reading Clerk; Margaret Simkin, 1032 West 36th Street, Los Angeles, California; Treasurer: Robert Simkin, 1032 West 36th Street, Los Angeles, California; Secretary: Elizabeth Lantz, 31 N. W. 22nd Place, Portland 10, Oregon.

MORE CARE FOR INDIA

There is steady growth in the movement to send personal packages of food to India as a gesture of sympathy and friendliness. Caroline Urie (1404 Dorsh Road, South Euclid, Ohio), whose plan was explained in the last number of the Bulletin, writes that the little cooperative group of Peacemakers, who have been conducting a social experiment in Gandhian non-violence in an area of severe racial discrimination in Fairhope, Alabama, has been undergoing a weekly fast in order to be able to contribute food parcels for India. Winifred Rawlins is a member of this group.

One of the letters received by Caroline Urie early in the project was from Professor D. V. Pokhala of Poona. "When I began to distribute the food," he wrote, "the first question that was put to me was: 'What is the aim of Mrs. Urie in sending the food? Are her aims really humane? Or does she want to create a soft corner among our citizens for the U.S.A., thereby opening a road for U. S. economic imperialism?' I am explaining that the gift is motivated by pure humanitistic impulse—a clear indication of an oasis in the desert of American naked commercialism."

In commenting on Dr. Pokhala's letter, Caroline Urie says, "Alas, it will take much disinterested good will by many people to undo the harm this country has done India in so short a time! It is a strange new role for America—to arouse such fear and mistrust among those who were not so long ago her friends."

However, there is a brighter side to give encouragement. The most recent letter is from Bhikshu Nirmalananda of the Gandhi Mission Society, Madras ,and shows the spirit in which help is welcomed. He writes: "Though the food material actually distributed gives only a small amount of energy to the individuals benefited, the knowledge that it represents your sympathy in our suffering affords a great solace to us all. It also makes us realize that human suffering, wherever it is, is common to all and does not recognize any difference of color, creed or nationality. We thank you for this comradeship in our suffering."

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IS THE HUMAN BODY SO CHEAP?

In a column called "Grim Realities," the New York Young Friends *Correspondent* prints the following statement:

"My name is John Crown. I am a paraplegic at Holloran Hospital. My physical wounds are small compared to my spiritual wounds. Having come back from death, I can now find no peace in this country or in this world . . .

"I've lived close to death, so the reasons why there is no peace seem infinitely flimsy . . . Russia wants the Dardanelles, Yugoslavia wants Trieste, the Moslems want India (he could have added, 'America wants oil'), capital wants more profit, labor wants more wages, Smith wants to pass the car in front of him, and Junior wants more spending money . . .

"I want to ask—Do you need to kill and cripple men for these petty gains! Anyone who thinks the human body is so cheap that it can be traded for a piece of land, a dollar, or a minute of time should be forced to listen all the rest of his life to the cries of the dying . . . For the troubles of the world originate in the ordinary man. The selfish and greedy ways of nations are the ways of each of us, multiplied . . . As long as the individual morals are low, so are the morals of the nation and the world . . .

"Until each of us stops 'hogging the road' there will be no real peace in the world . . . If a man wishes peace he must return to the Great Commandment—Love!"

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